United Nations S/PV.5416

Security Council

Distr.: General
19 April 2006

Original: English

Official communiqué of the 5416th (closed) meeting of the Security Council

Held in private at Headquarters, New York, on Wednesday, 19 April 2006, at 10.50 a.m.

In accordance with rule 55 of the provisional rules of procedure of the Security Council, the following communiqué was issued through the Secretary-General in place of a verbatim record:

"At its 5416th meeting, held in private on 19 April 2006, the Security Council considered the item entitled 'Briefings by the Minister for Foreign Affairs and the Minister of Defence of Uganda'.

"Pursuant to the decision taken at the 5415th meeting, the President, with the consent of the Council, extended invitations under rule 37 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure to His Excellency Mr. Sam Kutesa, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Uganda, and to His Excellency Mr. Amama Mbabazi, Minister of Defence of Uganda.

"Members of the Council, the Minister for Foreign Affairs and the Minister of Defence had an exchange of views."

06-31638 (E) 190406

United Nations S/PV.5417

Security Council

Sixty-first year

Provisional

5417th meeting

Friday, 21 April 2006, 10.35 a.m.

New York

President:	Mr. Zhang Yishan	(China)
Members:	Argentina	Mr. Mayoral
	Congo	Mr. Gayama
	Denmark	Mr. Faaborg-Andersen
	France	Mr. De La Sablière
	Ghana	Nana Effah-Apenteng
	Greece	Mr. Vassilakis
	Japan	Mr. Oshima
	Peru	Mr. Ruiz Rosas
	Qatar	Mr. Al-Bader
	Russian Federation	Mr. Dolgov
	Slovakia	Mr. Burian
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Sir Emyr Jones Parry
	United Republic of Tanzania	Mr. Mahiga
	United States of America	Ms. Sanders

Agenda

The situation in the Middle East

This record contains the text of speeches delivered in English and of the interpretation of speeches delivered in the other languages. The final text will be printed in the *Official Records of the Security Council*. Corrections should be submitted to the original languages only. They should be incorporated in a copy of the record and sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned to the Chief of the Verbatim Reporting Service, room C-154A.

06-31892 (E)

The meeting was called to order at 10.35 a.m.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

The situation in the Middle East

The President (*spoke in Chinese*): I should like to inform the Council that I have received letters from the representatives of Lebanon and the Syrian Arab Republic in which they request to be invited to participate in the consideration of the item on the Council's agenda. In conformity with the usual practice, I propose, with the consent of the Council, to invite those representatives to participate in the consideration of the item, without the right to vote, in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Charter and rule 37 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure.

There being no objection, it is so decided.

On behalf of the Council, I extend a warm welcome to His Excellency Mr. Fouad Siniora, Prime Minister of Lebanon. I request the Deputy Chief of Protocol to escort the Prime Minister to his seat at the Council table.

Mr. Fouad Siniora, Prime Minister of Lebanon, was escorted to a seat at the Council table.

At the invitation of the President, Mr. Atieh (Syrian Arab Republic) took the seat reserved for him at the Council table.

The President (*spoke in Chinese*): The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda. The Security Council is meeting in accordance with the understanding reached in its prior consultations.

I welcome the presence of the Secretary-General, His Excellency Mr. Kofi Annan, at this meeting.

I now give the floor to His Excellency Mr. Fouad Siniora, Prime Minister of Lebanon.

Mr. Siniora (Lebanon) (*spoke in Arabic*): I would like to thank you, Mr. President, for your invitation to address the members of the Security Council. I would also like to take this opportunity to express Lebanon's thanks to the Security Council for all the support it has provided in enhancing Lebanon's sovereignty and prosperity. I would also like to thank the Secretary-General for his tireless efforts and positive and constructive role for Lebanon on the various aspects of the issue.

(*spoke in English*)

It gives me great pleasure to address the Council today, first, to update it on recent developments in Lebanon and, secondly, to share our thoughts on a number of issues of common interest and concern.

But let me first express our deep gratitude for the great support that the United Nations including, especially, the Secretary-General and the Security Council, has provided to Lebanon over the past 19 months. This support has been instrumental in helping Lebanon move along in its transition towards the achievement of its territorial integrity, full independence and sovereignty and, most important, in reaching those results by peaceful means. United Nations support has not only been important for Lebanon, but it has also meant a great deal for the region, as the achievement of peace and security in Lebanon contributes to peace and security in the Middle East. The positive role of the United Nations is also important because it demonstrates that international institutions can be effective in protecting the legitimate rights of small countries and in making it possible for them to achieve those rights through peaceful means.

Today's meeting is timely as it comes after the preparation of the third report of the Secretary-General on Security Council resolution 1559 (2004) and before the Council convenes to discuss that report. In this connection, I would like to commend the Secretary-General and his special representative, Mr. Terje Roed-Larsen, and to thank them for an objective and accurate report.

The great historic transition that the Lebanese people started a year ago is not yet complete. There are certainly a number of serious challenges before us. But let me start with what I believe are important strides that have already been made on the road towards the Lebanon that we want: a self-governing, stable, democratic, moderate and more prosperous country.

After many years of civil strife, Israeli occupation and Syrian presence, during which most major policy issues were being either managed by non-Lebanese or were in some cases considered taboo or too sensitive to tackle, the Lebanese started to engage in real and

serious debate over all policy matters. The conference of national dialogue, which was initiated last March, was a clear expression of the readiness of the Lebanese to address difficult national issues in a serious and peaceful manner.

This process of national dialogue, which brings together 14 representatives of all the parliamentary blocs, has already achieved significant progress. Consensus has been reached on important matters such as relations with Syria, the delimitation of all common borders between Lebanon and Syria, including, first and foremost, the Sheba'a farms area, the policy towards the Palestinians in Lebanon and the international investigation and judicial process relating to the assassination of Prime Minister Hariri and his companions. The significance of reaching an agreement on those issues should not be underestimated.

The Lebanese people have shown remarkable resilience in the face of a systematic attempt to terrorize and intimidate them by means of bombings and the assassination of a number of pro-independence political figures and media personalities. This collective resilience has demonstrated that the Lebanese people have indeed moved a long way towards a strong, united and stable country — a country that cannot be easily fractured or intimidated.

It is a major challenge to put Lebanese-Syrian relations on the right footing. The scars left by the dramatic developments of the past 19 months and by the heavy-handed interference in Lebanese domestic affairs by the Syrian security establishment for many years are not easy to heal. However, for the sake of fairness, we should admit that Syria, for a significant part of the past 30 years, played a very important and constructive role in ending attempts to partition Lebanon and in helping Lebanon achieve the withdrawal of Israeli forces from most of southern Lebanon in the year 2000. In the national dialogue it has been unanimously agreed that the relations between the two sister countries should be strong and positive and based on mutual respect, parity and non-interference, and I personally strongly believe in that.

Such relations require, first and foremost, an effort to re-establish confidence between the two countries, genuine acceptance by the Syrian Government of a truly independent Lebanon and a genuine recognition that a free and sovereign Lebanon can have good relations with Syria and can serve Syrian and Arab interests better. That is a challenge. In our view, a positive response by Syria with regard to the steps agreed by all the parties in the national dialogue — including the establishment of diplomatic relations and the delineation of the borders between the two countries, including in the Sheba'a farms area — will be an indication that the Syrian Government is beginning to accept the idea that good relations between Syria and an independent Lebanon are possible. However long it takes, good relations between Lebanon and Syria, based on mutual respect, will be achieved and have to be achieved, because that is in the interests of both countries.

Since 1978, Lebanon has suffered from the Israeli occupation of large parts of its territory and from several other invasions and aggressions, which have all resulted in major destruction and dislocation. In May of 2000, Israeli forces withdrew from most of the occupied territories, with the exception of an area bordering Syria's Golan Heights, which is referred to as the Sheba'a farms. For us, the liberation of this still-occupied Lebanese land is a priority national issue. It is incumbent upon Israel to withdraw from that land, to hand over the Lebanese detainees in its prisons, to submit the maps of the landmines it left in the south and to stop its infringements on Lebanese sovereignty. We look forward to an active United Nations role in helping us to achieve those rightful demands.

The delineation of the Lebanese Sheba'a farms area — which Israel has continued to occupy, even after its withdrawal from south Lebanon in 2000 — is important in that context, because it has major implications for our ability to liberate that area. Agreeing with Syria on the border line that separates the Sheba'a farms from the Syrian Golan Heights will be an important step towards achieving the full withdrawal of the Israelis from Lebanon to the internationally recognized borders, in accordance with Security Council resolution 425 (1978). The Syrian Government has already declared verbally that the Sheba'a farms region is part of Lebanese territory. Also, and as indicated in the Secretary-General's report, President Assad himself stated in June of 2001 that

> "according to international law, it is up to the bordering States concerned to identify the status of a territory. Once that discussion is completed, an accord must be registered with the

international authorities. In the case of Sheba'a, this is the strict responsibility of Syria and Lebanon".

Accordingly, and in line with the Lebanese consensus on this matter, we have approached the Syrian Government in order to delineate the border in that region. The two Governments will then deposit the border agreement with the United Nations, which will draw the appropriate conclusions. We are still awaiting a positive response from Syria. In any event, we will be requesting the Secretary-General to confirm the specific steps required by the United Nations to recognize Lebanese sovereignty over the territory of the Sheba'a farms.

Another Government priority is the implementation of policies towards the Palestinians in Lebanon through dialogue, as unanimously agreed by all the national dialogue parties. That includes discussions with the Palestinian side to end all the armed presence outside the refugee camps within six months and subsequently to address the issue of weapons and security within the camps — all in accordance with Lebanon's sovereignty and the State's obligation to provide security for everyone throughout its territory, in accordance with the Taif national reconciliation pact of 1989.

The Government has also initiated a major effort to improve the living conditions of Palestinian refugees in cooperation with the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA), which embodies the responsibility of the international community towards those refugees who were forced out of their country, Palestine, when Israel was established.

It is no secret that for many years Lebanon's relationship with the Palestinian refugees on its territory has been difficult; in certain periods, it has been one of armed conflict. It is also a fact that the difficult living conditions in the refugee camps have allowed the camps to become breeding grounds and a safe haven for various armed factions. We intend to do our utmost, in association with the international community and donor countries, to help change the living conditions in the refugee camps. We have started discussions with the Palestinians to address economic and humanitarian needs, in addition to the issues of arms and security. In the period ahead, we intend to press forward on all those issues, especially with donor countries with a view to providing the necessary aid through UNRWA to improve the conditions of the Palestinian refugees in Lebanon until a final solution is reached for them in the context of the peace process and in accordance with the relevant United Nations resolutions and the Arab peace initiative.

In addition to implementing decisions already taken by the National Dialogue Conference, another challenge is to reach agreement on two remaining issues that have yet to be addressed. The first is the issue of the presidency of the Republic. Currently, the majority in parliament considers the extension of President Lahoud's term in September 2004 for three more years to have been the result of interference and coercion by Syria — which had great influence over the Lebanese parliament at that time — against all of the advice discouraging such heavy-handed interference. Because the majority in parliament is not sufficient to constitutionally shorten President Lahoud's extended term, thus paving the way for the election of a new President, the issue has been referred to the national dialogue in the hope that consensus can be reached. That has proved difficult so far. The national dialogue will convene on 28 April to take up the issue again. Agreement on the matter remains a challenge.

Another issue which will be taken up when the national dialogue is resumed is Hizbollah's weapons and their role in the defence of Lebanon. While there is consensus throughout Lebanon on the important role that the resistance, spearheaded by Hizbollah, played in forcing Israel's withdrawal from the south in May 2000, as well as on the fact that the south-eastern corner of the country, namely the Sheba'a farms, remains occupied, the future role of Hizbollah's weapons in defending Lebanon is a matter of national debate. That debate will be carried out in the context of a strategy agreed upon by all Lebanese concerning how best to defend Lebanon, against the backdrop of the provisions of the Taif Agreement of 1989, United Nations resolutions regarding Lebanon and the continued occupation of the Sheba'a farms, as well as the long history of incursions and violations of Lebanese territory by Israel. Reconciling those considerations with the natural obligation of the State to be the sole provider of security to all its citizens and residents, and the right of the State to have a monopoly over arms and to exercise its full authority throughout

the country, is a major challenge to be addressed in the period ahead.

Today's meeting also takes place in the midst of our consultations with the United Nations on the formation of a tribunal of an international character to try those involved in the assassination of late Prime Minister Hariri and his companions. I would like here to express our deep appreciation for the professional work carried out by Mr. Serge Brammertz and the Investigation Commission, which we hope will succeed in identifying the perpetrators of that terrorist crime and bringing them to justice. This is important not only with regard to the Hariri assassination — which is a very important aspect — but also because Lebanon has suffered most in the region from political assassinations over the past two decades. Revealing the truth and serving justice on those found guilty will be a major deterrent to those who might in the future contemplate such heinous crimes in Lebanon or elsewhere. In order to ensure continuity in the investigation and help to bring it to a successful conclusion, we would strongly support an extension of Mr. Brammertz's term, which we view as necessary.

With regard to the setting up of a tribunal of an international character, I would like to thank the Security Council for putting this issue on the fast track — something to which we attach utmost importance. We stand ready to conclude our discussions with the legal team of the United Nations as soon as possible so as to make sure that there is a smooth transition from the investigation to the tribunal.

Our region is in turmoil. What happens in Lebanon has a significant impact on the whole region. As Lebanese, and also as part of the Arab and Muslim worlds, we have an interest in and a responsibility for working together against the forces of extremism and despair by addressing the reasons that lie behind them. We want to go back to the true principles of moderation and tolerance which characterized our region and the religions that emanated from it.

The international community also has an interest in and a responsibility for helping the peoples of the region to shake off their feelings of hopelessness and despair and for contributing to their efforts in building more democratic and prosperous societies. The increasingly widespread prejudice against Arabs and Muslims and the stereotyping of them as violent or inherently hostile to the West only feed into their pervasive sense of humiliation and anger — as does the failure of the international community to correct the great injustice done to the Palestinian people. This sense of grave injustice, spanning six decades, has undoubtedly contributed to the feeling of helplessness and humiliation in the Arab and Muslim worlds. It has also provided fertile ground for extremist and violent minds to engage — in the name of religion — in activities against innocent people that contradict the principles of all religions. Moreover, Israel continues to reject the Arab peace initiative, thus maintaining the instability in the region and throughout the Muslim world.

If we could all cooperate and mobilize our joint efforts to achieve a just and comprehensive peace between the Israelis and the Palestinians, as well as with the other Arab countries, we would be contributing to the cause of democracy and peace in the Arab and Muslim worlds. That should be a priority objective of the international community. A great deal is at stake. The Council's responsibilities, and ours, are great. Lebanon is staying the course. We hope that, together, we will all succeed.

The President (*spoke in Chinese*): I give the floor to the representative of the Syrian Arab Republic.

Mr. Atieh (Syrian Arab Republic) (*spoke in Arabic*): Thank you, Mr. President, for having given me this opportunity to address the Council regarding the situation in the Middle East. I would like to welcome the Secretary-General, who is present at this meeting. I would also like to welcome the Prime Minister of Lebanon, Mr. Fouad Siniora, who has just made a statement about the situation in Lebanon.

My delegation asked to participate in and speak at this meeting so that it could explain the position of Syria on some of the points just raised by the Prime Minister of Lebanon. In this context, we would like to reaffirm the special relationship between our two countries and our two peoples — the Syrian and the Lebanese peoples — as dictated by history and geography. No external factor can separate them. In this respect, we regret the attempt by certain parties in the Lebanese arena to undermine that relationship in one way or another by spreading rumours that there is tension between our two fraternal countries. Syria has helped to promote stability and to put an end to the devastating civil war in Lebanon.

Syria has also sacrificed many of its sons to ensure Lebanon's freedom and independence and to put an end to Israel's occupation of southern Lebanon. During his statement, the Prime Minister of Lebanon spoke about Syria's constructive and important role in putting an end to attempts to divide Lebanon and to build national unity.

I now refer to the question of the demarcation of the border between Syria and Lebanon. We believe that, contrary to what some have implied, there is no problem in this regard. However, Syria has stated that it is willing to demarcate the border. Syria's Prime Minister has sent a letter in that regard to his Lebanese counterpart.

Concerning the demarcation of the border in the Sheba'a farms area, that region is under Israeli occupation. Israel must withdraw from the occupied lands before our two countries can demarcate their border, because demarcating the border there can only take place once the Sheba'a area is free of foreign occupation.

As to the issue of diplomatic representation between our two countries, since 1990 the agreements and existing institutions linking the two countries have gone far beyond the issue of exchanging ambassadors. Syria reaffirms its respect for the sovereignty and independence of Lebanon. The question of the exchange of ambassadors is a sovereign one. However, if there is a mutual desire to renew diplomatic relations, that matter can be considered.

Syria affirms its support for the national dialogue in Lebanon between our Lebanese brothers. We hope that dialogue will be successful, for that would be to the benefit of the Lebanese people. We believe that all the questions to be discussed by the Lebanese people should be left to the political parties in Lebanon, so that they may reach agreement without external interference.

Syria implemented the provisions of resolution 1559 (2004) pertaining to it when it withdrew all its troops and personnel from Lebanon on 26 April 2005. Some parties have said that the issues of the demarcation of the borders and the exchange of ambassadors are part of resolution 1559 (2004). However, we reject that idea. We believe that the matters of exchanging ambassadors and demarcating the border are sovereign matters for Lebanon and Syria. The Security Council should not interfere in those matters, in accordance with Article 2, paragraph 7, of the Charter, which states that "Nothing contained in the present Charter shall authorize the United Nations to intervene in matters which are essentially within the domestic jurisdiction of any state".

The Arab region aspires to comprehensive and lasting peace, as well as to the implementation of the relevant resolutions of the Security Council. Peace in the Middle East will come about through Israel's complete withdrawal from occupied Arab territories in the Syrian Golan and the Sheba'a farms in Lebanon and from occupied Palestinian territories to the 4 June 1967 line.

Some States have taken advantage of their membership in the Security Council to achieve certain objectives. That is contrary to the goal of peace and security in the region and will contribute to instability and tension. We hope that the Council members will demonstrate the same enthusiasm when it comes to implementing resolutions pertaining to the Arab-Israeli conflict, in particular resolutions 242 (1967) and 338 (1973), as it does with regard to other resolutions.

The President (*spoke in Chinese*): In accordance with the understanding reached in the Council's prior consultations, I now invite Council members to a private meeting to continue our discussion of the subject.

The meeting rose at 11.05 a.m.

United Nations S/PV.5418

Security Council

Distr.: General
21 April 2006

Original: English

Official communiqué of the 5418th (closed) meeting of the Security Council

Held in private at Headquarters, New York, on Friday, 21 April 2006, at 11.15 a.m.

In accordance with rule 55 of the provisional rules of procedure of the Security Council, the following communiqué was issued through the Secretary-General in place of a verbatim record:

"At its 5418th meeting, held in private on 21 April 2006, the Security Council considered the item entitled 'The situation in the Middle East'.

"Pursuant to the decision taken at the 5417th meeting on 21 April 2006, the President, with the consent of the Council, extended an invitation under rule 37 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure to His Excellency Mr. Fouad Siniora, Prime Minister of Lebanon.

"Members of the Council and the Prime Minister of Lebanon had an exchange of views."

06-31917 (E) 210406

United Nations S/PV.5419

Security Council

Sixty-first year

Provisional

5419th meeting

Monday, 24 April 2006, 10 a.m.

New York

President:	Mr. Wang Guangya	(China)
Members:	Argentina	Mr. García Moritán
	Congo	Mr. Ikouebe
	Denmark	Mr. Faaborg-Andersen
	France	Mr. Duclos
	Ghana	Nana Effah-Apenteng
	Greece	Mr. Vassilakis
	Japan	Mr. Oshima
	Peru	Mr. De Rivero
	Qatar	Mr. Al-Qahtani
	Russian Federation	Mr. Shcherbak
	Slovakia	Mr. Burian
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Mr. Johnston
	United Republic of Tanzania	Mr. Manongi
	United States of America	Ms. Wolcott Sanders

Agenda

The situation in the Middle East, including the Palestinian question

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06-32213 (E)

The meeting was called to order at 10.05 a.m.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

The situation in the Middle East, including the Palestinian question

The President (*spoke in Chinese*): In accordance with the understanding reached in the Council's prior consultations, I shall take it that the Security Council agrees to extend an invitation under rule 39 of its provisional rules of procedure to Mr. Alvaro de Soto, Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process and Personal Representative of the Secretary-General.

It is so decided.

I invite Mr. De Soto to take a seat at the Council table.

The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda. The Council is meeting in accordance with the understanding reached in its prior consultations.

At this meeting, the Security Council will hear a briefing by Mr. Alvaro de Soto, Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process and Personal Representative of the Secretary-General. I now give him the floor.

Mr. De Soto: We are witnessing a potentially dangerous deterioration of the situation in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. In the light of the failure of the new Palestinian Government to commit to the principles articulated by the Quartet related to non-violence, recognition of the State of Israel's right to exist and acceptance of previous commitments and obligations, several key donors have withdrawn direct support to the Palestinian Authority, while expressing a desire to meet basic needs of the Palestinian people. Other donors have indicated a willingness to provide funds, and efforts to obtain support continue within the region. The new Government is experiencing grave difficulties in meeting the running costs of the Government, including the payment of salaries of civil servants, security forces among them.

Lawlessness, already endemic, is worsening amid certainties concerning command and control of the security forces within the new dispensation and signs of a struggle, still unresolved, between the presidency and the new Government.

President Abbas has made important security appointments and decisions in the past few weeks. For his part, the Palestinian Interior Minister recently announced the formation of a new "special force" within the Ministry of Interior, with members drawn from existing security services and various factions, with the aim to "end the security chaos and illegal activity in the Palestinian territory". He announced the appointment to a senior or supervisory position in the Ministry of a leader of the Popular Resistance Committees who is on Israel's wanted list. President Abbas has issued a presidential order cancelling that appointment.

The head of Hamas's political bureau publicly claimed over the weekend, in Damascus, that senior Fatah officials were "conspiring" to deprive Hamas of its ability to govern, as part of a "plot" to overthrow the Government.

Senior Fatah members strongly criticized these statements and rejected the allegations, accusing the Hamas leader of inciting civil war. After protest marches and clashes between Fatah and Hamas supporters over the weekend, efforts are under way to ease tensions between the Hamas-led Government and Fatah. We shall be keeping a close watch on the evolution of the novel, ongoing Palestinian experiment in cohabitation. The political strife, non-payment of salaries, military pressure and closure make for a potent and volatile brew.

On the Israeli side, negotiations on the formation of a new Cabinet continue, with a Cabinet expected to be finalized in the very near future. Coalition talks are based on the programme outlined in interim Prime Minister Olmert's speech on election night, indicating a determination to move to set the permanent borders of Israel by removing settlements east of the barrier, consolidating the large existing settlement blocs and linking Jerusalem to Ma'ale Adumim.

The Israeli caretaker Cabinet decided on 11 April that the Palestinian Authority had become a "terrorist entity". Among other measures, Israel has stated that it will not receive on the same visit foreign visitors who met with the new Government or Hamas members.

Regarding security concerns, there has been an alarming increase in violence since 30 March. At least

29 Palestinians have been killed, among them at least six children; 180 Palestinians have been injured. During the same period, 10 Israelis have been killed, among them one child, and many have been injured during the reporting period. Three foreigners were killed in the suicide bombing in Tel Aviv.

The Israeli fatalities were the consequence of two suicide bombings, one outside the settlement of Kedumim in the northern West Bank on 30 March, the other in central Tel Aviv on 17 April. The Al-Asqa Martyrs Brigade claimed responsibility for the first attack, Islamic Jihad for the second.

President Abbas condemned both attacks, while urging the Quartet to intervene to prevent a grave deterioration in the security situation. However, no condemnation was forthcoming from the Hamas-led Palestinian Government, and Palestinian Cabinet ministers and spokesmen referred to the attack as legitimate resistance, as self-defence or as the natural consequence of Israeli aggression and occupation. The Government of Israel held the Palestinian Authority responsible for the Tel Aviv suicide bombing. Israel tightened security in the West Bank, carried out a number of arrests and moved to revoke the Jerusalem residency rights of three Hamas members of the Palestinian Legislative Council.

The Palestinian fatalities and injuries were the consequence of a range of Israeli military operations, including air strikes, artillery and tank shelling in northern Gaza, targeted killings and ground operations in the West Bank. Those targeted during the month were alleged by Israel to be militants. However, among those killed in these operations were at least three children and a Palestinian police officer. According to the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), the Israeli military fired 2,415 artillery shells and 62 missiles inside the Gaza Strip during the first two weeks of April. In addition to causing human casualties, the shelling caused damage to structures and roads, left unexploded ordnance that poses a danger to civilians and created constant noise that caused stress to the civilian population in Gaza.

The Israeli Government has expressed regret at the civilian deaths. But it has indicated its intention to intensify operations unless action is taken to prevent Palestinian attacks. Israel has stated that its actions were in response to planned terrorist attacks as well as to Palestinian rocket fire into Israel from Gaza. During the reporting period, at least 113 rockets were fired towards Israel, according to OCHA. There were fortunately no injuries or significant damages reported.

The Palestinian Authority is facing a growing fiscal crisis, due to a complex combination of factors. The Authority's revenues are falling sharply mainly for three reasons. First, key donors have discontinued direct support, in view of the Government's failure to meet Quartet principles. While other donors have said that they would provide budgetary support to meet immediate needs, no support has yet been confirmed as received. Secondly, Israel continues to withhold tax clearance revenues that it collects on behalf of the Palestinian Authority, citing the Palestinian Government's policy positions. Israel has, however, announced that it will use a portion of this money to pay electricity, water and fuel bills owed to Israeli companies by the Palestinian Authority. Thirdly, contraction of economic activity is expected to reduce Palestinian domestic tax revenues.

A crisis in the banking system has compounded these acute problems. The crisis has arisen because private banks are wary of the political risks of financial transactions in the occupied Palestinian territory in the present circumstances.

We should not forget that even before the January election, the Palestinian Authority was facing fiscal difficulties as a result of the high wage bill, which had been expanded to unsustainable levels by the Palestinian Authority prior to the assumption of power by the new Government.

The Palestinian Authority has to date not paid March salaries to more than 150,000 civil servants, of whom some 70,000 are members of the security forces. As a result, there is potential for a deterioration in the security environment. Already, members of the security services have vented their anger at the prospect of non-payment of salaries by taking over government buildings. There have been protest demonstrations, many of them at the United Nations Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process office in Gaza, against the decision to withdraw funding and against Israeli military operations. United Nations security officials expect these demonstrations to increase.

There is also a clear potential for a deterioration in the humanitarian situation, which could be preceded

or even triggered by the worsening security crisis. Nearly one million Palestinians rely on a Palestinian Authority wage earner and Palestinian Authority salaries account for about 25 per cent of gross domestic product. The fiscal crisis could therefore lead to rising unemployment and soaring poverty rates.

Most important, without additional revenues, the Palestinian Authority may not be able to deliver the basic services needed to sustain Palestinians and stave off a humanitarian crisis: health care, sanitation and maintenance of sewage, electricity and water networks. The education of young Palestinians is also likely to suffer if the current trend continues, given that 95 per cent of secondary school education is provided by Palestinian Authority-salaried teachers.

I would like to add a word here about closures and barrier construction. Closures are the main factor leading to the depression of the Palestinian economy, and it had been hoped that the implementation of the Agreement on Movement and Access of 15 November 2005 would pave the way to economic revival. It is important for all concerned to alleviate the humanitarian situation; Israel's responsibilities in this regard under international law are well established. The Council will recall that the Movement and Access Agreement was the result of months of painstaking efforts by Quartet Special Envoy James Wolfensohn and a last-minute intercession by United States Secretary of State Rice. Of the six parts of that Agreement, only the Rafah crossing for persons at the southern border of Gaza is operating satisfactorily, monitored by the European Union Border Assistance Mission. President Abbas recently moved to ensure that border security falls under the authority of the presidency.

The Karni crossing — another aspect of the Movement and Access Agreement — reopened this month, but only for a limited number of days. That has somewhat eased the crisis that had developed in Gaza. The daily average number of trucks exporting goods out of Gaza through Karni between 1 and 14 April was seven, as compared with the target of 150 envisaged in last November's Agreement. Stocks of staple foodstuffs would be quickly depleted again if Karni were to be closed. However, Kerem Shalom has been opened for the import of essential food commodities from Egypt; of course, no goods are exported through Kerem Shalom.

In the West Bank, there were 476 checkpoints at last count. In the aftermath of last week's suicide bombing in Tel Aviv, existing measures to divide the West Bank into distinct areas have been solidified.

The Israeli Cabinet also decided to accelerate the pace of construction of the barrier in and around Jerusalem, notwithstanding the advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice. The Israeli High Court of Justice recently rejected a petition against the construction of the barrier in northern Jerusalem.

Let me turn briefly to developments in Lebanon, about which the Council heard from Prime Minister Siniora at the end of last week (see S/PV.5417). The fifth round of the national dialogue took place on 3 April to discuss the question of the presidency. Participants in the dialogue will seek to achieve an agreement on this issue by 28 April, when the dialogue next convenes. If no agreement is possible, the issue will be removed from the agenda, and participants will turn their attention to Hizbollah's weapons.

As reported in the previous briefing to the Council, and as Prime Minister Siniora said in his address to the Council on 21 April, Lebanese leaders reached agreement on a number of important issues. We encourage Lebanon's friends and neighbours to support it in the implementation of those nationally endorsed decisions.

We also welcome and encourage Lebanon's economic and social reform efforts and its determination to address the challenging but essential task of ameliorating its economic performance and alleviating its debt burden.

Southern Lebanon has been tense but, on the whole, quiet. We welcome the significant reduction in Israeli overflights north of the Blue Line during the reporting period and hope that further efforts will be made to cease such air violations. As regional tensions continue to rise, all parties must exercise maximum restraint and show full respect for the Blue Line in order to maintain the relative calm that currently exists and that all sides state they seek.

I would add that on 13 April, Lebanon marked the thirty-first anniversary of the start of its long and destructive civil war. It is fitting that Lebanese leaders came together on that day to renew their determination to avoid a return to violence and to recommit themselves to addressing issues of national concern

through dialogue. We continue to support the Lebanese in their attempts to reach consensus through such means and to implement the decisions reached in the national dialogue.

In closing, allow me to return briefly to the situation in Israel and the occupied Palestinian territory, where the security, humanitarian and political challenges are growing.

The first challenge is to stabilize the security environment. Here, the primary responsibility rests squarely with the parties. I take this opportunity to reiterate the Secretary-General's condemnation of last week's suicide attack against civilians in Tel Aviv and his call on the Palestinian Authority to take a clear public stand against such acts of terrorism, which cannot be justified under any circumstances. The responsible authorities must take firm measures to prevent such attacks, as well as rocket attacks. The ongoing jockeying concerning the Palestinian security forces introduces an element of uncertainty as to the precise locus of responsibility for law and order within the Palestinian Authority. There is an immediate need for closer coordination among the various security bodies.

The Secretary-General has called on the Government of Israel to ensure that its military actions are proportionate and that they do not endanger the civilian population. Both parties must abide by their obligations under international law and refrain from actions that further escalate the situation and put civilians at risk.

The second challenge is to meet the basic needs of the Palestinian people. The United Nations carries out a wide range of activities throughout the occupied Palestinian territory. In the light of current developments, it is likely that the scale of those activities will increase. United Nations entities will continue to discharge their responsibilities, to the best of their abilities, in keeping with their respective mandates. In so doing, United Nations programmes and agencies will continue to interact with their Palestinian Authority counterparts to ensure that we serve the interests of peace and meet the needs of the Palestinian people as effectively as possible. Political and diplomatic contacts may take place at the discretion of the Secretary-General.

Increased United Nations and non-governmental organization activity cannot, however, fill the void that would be created were the Palestinian Authority no longer able to provide the vital services that it delivers now. Many major donors will not transfer funds to the Palestinian Authority but express their desire to ensure that the basic needs of the Palestinian people are met. However, the Palestinian Authority provides the bulk of the irreplaceable basic services necessary to avert a humanitarian crisis, and it is highly questionable as to whether the Palestinian Authority should be supplanted in those functions. Most Palestinians, for instance, receive their medical attention from Palestinian Authority-salaried nurses and doctors in Palestinian Authority hospitals and medical centres. The United Nations will continue to work with all concerned to try to find ways to ensure that the needs of the Palestinians are met.

The third challenge is to address the new reality that both parties are on quite different trajectories from those they were on when the road map was drawn up by the Quartet and endorsed by the Security Council. Much has happened on the ground in the meantime. It is no exaggeration to say that prospects for achieving a two-State solution along the lines envisaged in the road map have receded through a combination of factors. Those include the radical departure of the new Palestinian Government from tenets long accepted by the Palestine Liberation Organization on behalf of the Palestinian people and its failure to meet the principles articulated by the Quartet. On the Israeli side, we continue to witness the creation of facts on the ground, including settlement expansion and a route of the barrier which deviates from the 1967 borders, raising serious concerns about whether it will ever be possible to achieve a viable and contiguous Palestinian State.

We must deal with the new situation with the right mixture of firm adherence to basic principles and creativity to meet a rapidly evolving reality. The Secretary-General has invited Quartet principals to meet in New York on 9 May to discuss those important issues. They will be joined by key regional partners. We will, as always, keep the Security Council informed.

The President (*spoke in Chinese*): I thank Mr. De Soto for his briefing.

The Security Council has thus concluded the present stage of its consideration of the item on its agenda. I would like to invite Council members to proceed to the consultations room to continue our discussion of the item.

The meeting rose at 10.35 a.m.

United Nations S/PV.5420

Security Council

Distr.: General
25 April 2006

Original: English

Official communiqué of the 5420th (closed) meeting of the Security Council

Held in private at Headquarters, New York, on Tuesday, 25 April 2006, at 10 a.m.

In accordance with rule 55 of the provisional rules of procedure of the Security Council, the following communiqué was issued through the Secretary-General in place of a verbatim record:

"On 25 April 2006, the Security Council, pursuant to resolution 1353 (2001), annex II, sections A and B, held its 5420th meeting in private with the troop-contributing countries to the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara.

"The Security Council and the troop-contributing countries heard a briefing under rule 39 of its provisional rules of procedure by Ms. Lisa Buttenheim, Director of the Asia and Middle East Division of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations.

"Members of the Council, Ms. Buttenheim and representatives of participating troop-contributing countries had a constructive exchange of views."

06-32506 (E) 250406

United Nations S/PV.5421

Security Council

Sixty-first year

Provisional

5421 st meeting

Tuesday, 25 April 2006, 1.10 p.m.

New York

President:	Mr. Wang Guangya	(China)
Members:	Argentina	Mr. Mayoral
	Congo	Mr. Ikouebe
	Denmark	Mr. Faaborg-Andersen
	France	Mr. De La Sabliere
	Ghana	Mr. Christian
	Greece	Mrs. Telalian
	Japan	Mr. Kitaoka
	Peru	Mr. De Rivero
	Qatar	Mr. Al-Bader
	Russian Federation	Mr. Dolgov
	Slovakia	Mr. Burian
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Sir Emyr Jones Parry
	United Republic of Tanzania	Mr. Mahiga
	United States of America	Mr. Bolton

Agenda

The situation concerning the Democratic Republic of the Congo

Letter dated 12 April 2006 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/2006/219)

This record contains the text of speeches delivered in English and of the interpretation of speeches delivered in the other languages. The final text will be printed in the *Official Records of the Security Council*. Corrections should be submitted to the original languages only. They should be incorporated in a copy of the record and sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned to the Chief of the Verbatim Reporting Service, room C-154A.

06-32480 (E)

The meeting was called to order at 1.10 p.m.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

The situation concerning the Democratic Republic of the Congo

The President (*spoke in Chinese*): I should like to inform the Council that I have received letters from the representatives of Austria and the Democratic Republic of the Congo, in which they request to be invited to participate in the consideration of the item on the Council's agenda. In conformity with the usual practice, I propose, with the consent of the Council, to invite those representatives to participate in the consideration, without the right to vote, in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Charter and rule 37 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure.

There being no objection, it is so decided.

At the invitation of the President, Mr. Ileka (Democratic Republic of the Congo) and Mr. Pfanzelter (Austria) took seats at the Council table.

The President (*spoke in Chinese*): The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda. The Council is meeting in accordance with the understanding reached in its prior consultations.

Members of the Council have before them document S/2006/253, which contains the text of a draft resolution prepared in the course of the Council's prior consultations. I should also like to draw the attention of Council members to document S/2006/203, which contains the text of a letter dated 30 March 2006 from the Permanent Representative of the Democratic Republic of the Congo to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council, and to document S/2006/219, which contains the text of a letter dated 12 April 2006 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council.

It is my understanding that the Council is ready to proceed to the vote on the draft resolution before it. Unless I hear any objection, I shall now put the draft resolution to the vote.

There being no objection, it is so decided.

A vote was taken by show of hands.

In favour:

Argentina, China, Congo, Denmark, France, Ghana, Greece, Japan, Peru, Qatar, Russian Federation, Slovakia, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America.

The President (*spoke in Chinese*): There were 15 votes in favour. The draft resolution has been adopted unanimously as resolution 1671 (2006).

I now give the floor to the representative of France, who wishes to make a statement following the voting.

Mr. De La Sablière (France) (*spoke in French*): France welcomes the adoption of resolution 1671 (2006), which attests to the commitment of the international community, particularly the United Nations and the European Union, to the peace process in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. The force whose deployment the Council has just authorized will be an important element in ensuring that the elections scheduled for June go smoothly.

Here, I should like to recall our interpretation of operative paragraph 4 of the resolution which, as I understand from our consultations on the text, is shared by other Council members, it will not be necessary to adopt another resolution to renew the European force's mandate when the Council decides, by 30 September, to extend the mandate of the United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUC). Its intention to do that is stated in the resolution's eleventh preambular paragraph.

The President (*spoke in Chinese*): The Security Council has thus concluded the present stage of its consideration of the item on its agenda. The Council will remain seized of the matter.

The meeting rose at 1.15 p.m.

United Nations S/PV.5422

Security Council

Sixty-first year

Provisional

5422nd meeting

Tuesday, 25 April 2006, 1.15 p.m.

New York

President:	Mr. Wang Guangya	(China)
Members:	Argentina	Mr. Mayoral
	Congo	Mr. Ikouebe
	Denmark	Mr. Faaborg-Andersen
	France	Mr. De La Sablière
	Ghana	Mr. Christian
	Greece	Mrs. Telalian
	Japan	Mr. Kitaoka
	Peru	Mr. De Rivero
	Qatar	Mr. Al-Bader
	Russian Federation	Mr. Dolgov
	Slovakia	Mr. Burian
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Sir Emyr Jones Parry
	United Republic of Tanzania	Mr. Mahiga
	United States of America	Mr. Bolton

Agenda

Reports of the Secretary-General on the Sudan

This record contains the text of speeches delivered in English and of the interpretation of speeches delivered in the other languages. The final text will be printed in the *Official Records of the Security Council*. Corrections should be submitted to the original languages only. They should be incorporated in a copy of the record and sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned to the Chief of the Verbatim Reporting Service, room C-154A.

06-32570 (E)

The meeting was called to order at 1.15 p.m.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

Reports of the Secretary-General on the Sudan

The President (*spoke in Chinese*): The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda. The Council is meeting in accordance with the understanding reached in its prior consultations.

Following consultations among the members of the Security Council, I have been authorized to make the following statement on behalf of the Council:

"The Security Council reaffirms its commitment to the sovereignty, unity, independence and territorial integrity of Sudan.

"The Security Council strongly commends and supports the efforts of the African Union to achieve lasting peace in Darfur. It reiterates in the strongest terms the need for all parties to the conflict in Darfur to put an immediate end to the violence and atrocities. It reaffirms its concern that the persisting violence in Darfur might further negatively affect the rest of the country as well as the region, including the security of Chad, and expresses its utmost concern over the dire consequences of the prolonged conflict in Darfur for the civilian population. It further reaffirms the right of the displaced persons to return to their homes if they wish to do so.

"The Security Council reiterates its full support for the African Union-led inter-Sudanese peace talks in Abuja on the conflict in Darfur, in particular the tireless efforts of the Chief Mediator, Dr. Salim Ahmed Salim, and his team. It welcomes the developments so far in the negotiations and urges the parties to make speedy progress in concluding a Darfur peace accord.

"The Security Council further reiterates its endorsement of the decision of 10 March 2006 of the African Union Peace and Security Council that an accord must be reached by 30 April 2006 and strongly urges that all parties make the necessary efforts to reach an accord by this date.

"The Security Council recognizes that an inclusive political settlement is key to peace in Sudan and that the talks provide a mechanism to achieve such a settlement in Darfur. The Council reiterates its call to all parties to the conflict to fulfil their commitments to conclude a peace accord in the interest of the people of Darfur, and Sudan as a whole.

"The Security Council calls on and expects the parties in Abuja to consider, in good faith, proposals to be made by the Mediator, with a view to reaching peace, security and stability in Darfur, and Sudan as a whole. It emphasizes that working towards a positive outcome is a collective responsibility of all the parties in the conflict.

"The Security Council commends the various partners and stakeholders for their support to the African Union-led Abuja peace process and encourages them, in particular the United Nations, to continue supporting the parties in the implementation of the peace accord."

This statement will be issued as a document of the Security Council under the symbol S/PRST/2006/17.

The Security Council has thus concluded the present stage of its consideration of the item on the agenda.

The meeting rose at 1.20 p.m.

United Nations S PV 5423

Security Council

Sixty-first year

Provisional

5423rd meeting

Tuesday, 25 April 2006, 1.20 p.m.

New York

President:	Mr. Wang Guangya	(China)
Members:	Argentina	Mr. Mayoral
	Congo	Mr. Ikouebe
	Denmark	Mr. Faaborg-Andersen
	France	Mr. De La Sablière
	Ghana	Mr. Christian
	Greece	Mrs. Telalian
	Japan	Mr. Kitaoka
	Peru	Mr. De Rivero
	Qatar	Mr. Al-Bader
	Russian Federation	Mr. Dolgov
	Slovakia	Mr. Burian
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Sir Emyr Jones Parry
	United Republic of Tanzania	Mr. Mahiga
	United States of America	Mr. Bolton

Agenda

Reports of the Secretary-General on the Sudan

This record contains the text of speeches delivered in English and of the interpretation of speeches delivered in the other languages. The final text will be printed in the *Official Records of the Security Council*. Corrections should be submitted to the original languages only. They should be incorporated in a copy of the record and sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned to the Chief of the Verbatim Reporting Service, room C-154A.

06-32576 (E)

The meeting was called to order at 1.20 p.m.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

Reports of the Secretary-General on the Sudan

The President (*spoke in Chinese*): The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda. Members of the Council have before them document S/2006/255, which contains the text of a draft resolution submitted by Argentina, Denmark, France, Japan, Peru, Slovakia, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America.

It is my understanding that the Council is ready to proceed to the vote on the draft resolution. Unless I hear any objection, I shall put the draft resolution to the vote now.

There being no objection, it is so decided.

A vote was taken by show of hands.

In favour:

Argentina, Congo, Denmark, France, Ghana, Greece, Japan, Peru, Slovakia, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America

Against:

None

Abstaining:

China, Qatar, Russian Federation

The President (*spoke in Chinese*): The draft resolution received 12 votes in favour, none against and three abstentions. The resolution has been adopted as resolution 1672 (2006).

I shall now give the floor to those members who wish to make a statement after the adoption of the resolution.

Mr. Dolgov (Russian Federation) (*spoke in Russian*): The Russian Federation did not feel it was possible to support the adoption of the resolution on applying sanctions to four Sudanese persons. In taking this decision, we were guided by thoughts we have frequently set out in the Security Council.

There is no doubt that the violation of international norms, including international humanitarian law, should not go unpunished. However, we believe that the present round of peace negotiations on Darfur in Abuja should be concluded by the Sudanese parties signing all the peace agreements up to 30 April 2006, as was determined by the African Union. In our view, there is the feeling that the adoption of this resolution might have a negative impact on the prospects for concluding a peace agreement within the time period and thus would not promote the efforts of the international community to establish peace and stability in Darfur and in the Sudan as a whole. We are convinced that, within the Sudanese context and also in broader terms, the implementation of sanctions should be closely linked with the task of promoting the process of a political settlement of the conflict and ensuring regional stability.

Mr. Al-Bader (Qatar) (*spoke in Arabic*): In the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1591 (2005) we did not get clear and consistent evidence that would condemn those individuals in the way required for imposing sanctions on them in accordance with the Committee's measures and guidelines. We have frequently stated that we are ready to take note of any piece of proof available, as we are committed to the relevant resolutions and guidelines applicable within the Committee.

We are of the view that it is our duty to leave any such accusations to the prosecutor of the International Criminal Court to deal with and not to influence any investigations being carried out or that may be carried out in this respect.

This is why our decision to abstain was based on resolutions 1591 (2005) and 1593 (2005), as well as on the Committee's procedures. We consider the Committee to be the technical and legal specialized body entrusted with producing recommendations to impose sanctions.

In addition, given the positive report of Mr. Salim, African Union Special Envoy for the Inter-Sudanese Peace Talks on Darfur, and given the positive developments in the Abuja process, we thought that it would not be suitable to adopt this kind of resolution at this particular juncture and that it would be preferable to postpone the vote until after the end of the Abuja process on 30 April 2006. It is for all of these reasons that Qatar abstained during the vote.

Mr. Bolton (United States): We believe that this vote today constituted an important first step in the

Security Council fulfilling its responsibilities under the several resolutions respecting Darfur that it has adopted. This resolution demonstrates that the Security Council is serious in its effort to restore peace and security in the region and that, far from interfering in the peace process in Abuja, it will strengthen that process. We regret that the vote today was not unanimous, but we do not think that that will deter the Security Council from continuing to fulfil its responsibilities.

The President (*spoke in Chinese*): I shall now make a statement in my capacity as representative of China.

China has always been very careful about adoption of sanctions by the Security Council. Past practices and experiences reveal that, more often than not, sanctions cannot reach expected results. On the contrary, sanctions victimize civilian populations. Therefore, China abstained in the voting on resolutions 1556 (2004), 1564 (2004) and 1591 (2005). Just now, China abstained in the voting on resolution 1672 (2006).

More importantly, China believes that the timing for adopting such a resolution is not right. During the course of consultations, many Council members, including African members, repeatedly expressed such concern about the timing.

The African Union-led Abuja peace talks are currently at a crucial juncture. The top priority of the work of the Security Council in this regard is to assist the African Union in bringing the Abuja talks to a conclusion before the end of the month and to urge the parties to sign the package peace agreement. That is the priority for the African Union. It is also an urgent task for the international community, including the Security Council.

Approximately one week remains before the deadline. During this exceptionally important period, the Security Council should focus on the overall political situation and remain on high alert. If it takes any course of action, it should focus on promoting and facilitating, rather than affecting and interfering in, the peace talks. If, as a result of the Security Council's sanctions resolution, any party to the Abuja talks has second thoughts about signing such a peace accord, the conflict in the Darfur region will inevitably be prolonged or even intensify. The Security Council would have to assume responsibility for such an eventuality.

Like other members, China is very concerned about the situation in Darfur. China also hopes that the humanitarian crisis can be neutralized and the humanitarian situation improved in the near future. China supports the pivotal role played by African Union Mission in Sudan in stabilizing the security situation in the Darfur region. We also endorse the idea that those responsible for serious violations of international humanitarian law and international human rights must be brought to justice.

The proper settlement of the Darfur problem will not only affect the security and humanitarian situation in the Darfur region, but also have an impact on the peace process between the north and south in the Sudan, on the neighbouring countries of Chad and the Central African Republic and on the subregion as a whole. On that critical issue, the Security Council should send a constructive message and avoid actions that might give rise to misinterpretation or even affect the peace process as a whole.

During discussions in the Security Council sanctions Committee, the Chinese representative joined other colleagues in requesting clarification of criteria for the inclusion of individuals on the list of sanctions. Regrettably, the sponsors and the panel of experts have yet to provide supplementary material. Sanctions should be applied as an extremely careful step. Before a number of specific details could be clarified and convincing evidence established, certain members requested the termination of discussions in the sanctions Committee and submission of the matter to the Council for action. Such an approach is at variance with the Council's practice of many years' standing; neither is it in accordance with the guidelines for the work of the sanctions Committee. We therefore express our reservations in that regard.

For those reasons, the Chinese delegation had no choice but to abstain on the vote on the draft resolution.

I now resume my functions as President of the Security Council.

The Security Council has thus concluded its consideration of the item on its agenda. The Council will remain seized of the matter.

The meeting rose at 1.35 p.m.

United Nations S/PV.5424

Security Council

Sixty-first year

Provisional

5424th meeting

Tuesday, 25 April 2006, 1.35 p.m.

New York

President:	Mr. Wang Guangya	(China)
Members:	Argentina	Mr. Mayoral
	Congo	Mr. Ikouebe
	Denmark	Mr. Faaborg-Andersen
	France	Mr. De La Sablière
	Ghana	Mr. Christian
	Greece	Mrs. Telalian
	Japan	Mr. Kitaoka
	Peru	Mr. De Rivero
	Qatar	Mr. Al-Bader
	Russian Federation	Mr. Dolgov
	Slovakia	Mr. Burian
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Sir Emyr Jones Parry
	United Republic of Tanzania	Mr. Mahiga
	United States of America	Mr. Bolton

Agenda

Threats to international peace and security caused by terrorist acts

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06-32582 (E)

The meeting was called to order at 1.35 p.m.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

Threats to international peace and security caused by terrorist acts

The President (*spoke in Chinese*): I should like to inform the Council that I have received a letter from the representative of Egypt in which he requests to be invited to participate in the consideration of the item on the Council's agenda. In conformity with the usual practice, I propose, with the consent of the Council, to invite that representative to participate in the consideration, without the right to vote, in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Charter and rule 37 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure.

There being no objection, it is so decided.

At the invitation of the President, Mr. Abdelaziz (Egypt) took a seat at the Council table.

The President (*spoke in Chinese*): The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda. The Security Council is meeting in accordance with the understanding reached in its prior consultations.

After consultations among members of the Security Council, I have been authorized to make the following statement on behalf of the Council:

"The Security Council condemns in the strongest terms the terrorist bombings that took place in Dahab, Egypt, on 24 April 2006.

"The Security Council expresses its deepest sympathy and condolences to the victims of these attacks and their families, and to the people and the Government of the Arab Republic of Egypt, as well as to all other countries whose citizens have been killed or injured in these bombings.

"The Security Council underlines the need to bring the perpetrators, organizers, financiers and sponsors of these intolerable acts to justice, and urges all States, in accordance with their obligations under international law and resolutions 1373 (2001) and 1624 (2005), to cooperate with and provide support and assistance, as appropriate, to the Government of the Arab Republic of Egypt in this regard.

"The Security Council reaffirms that terrorism in all its forms and manifestations constitutes one of the most serious threats to international peace and security, and that any acts of terrorism are criminal and unjustifiable, regardless of their motivation, wherever, whenever and by whomsoever committed.

"The Security Council further reaffirms the need to combat by all means, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations, threats to international peace and security caused by terrorist acts.

"The Security Council reiterates its determination to combat all forms of terrorism, in accordance with its responsibilities under the Charter of the United Nations."

This statement will be issued as a document of the Security Council under the symbol S/PRST/2006/18.

The Security Council has thus concluded the present stage of its consideration of the item on its agenda.

The meeting rose at 1.40 p.m.

United Nations S/PV.5425

Security Council

Sixty-first year

Provisional

5425th meeting

Tuesday, 25 April 2006, 1.40 p.m.

New York

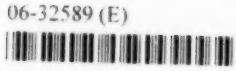
President:	Mr. Wang Guangya	(China)
Members:	Argentina	Mr. Mayoral
	Congo	Mr. Ikouebe
	Denmark	Mrs. Wandel
	France	Mr. De Rivière
	Ghana	Mr. Christian
	Greece	Mrs. Telalian
	Japan	Mr. Kitaoka
	Peru	Ms. Tincopa
	Qatar	Mr. Al-Bader
	Russian Federation	Mr. Dolgov
	Slovakia	Mr. Burian
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Sir Emyr Jones Parry
	United Republic of Tanzania	Mr. Mahiga
	United States of America	Mr. Bolton

Agenda

The situation in Chad and the Sudan

This record contains the text of speeches delivered in English and of the interpretation of speeches delivered in the other languages. The final text will be printed in the *Official Records of the Security Council*. Corrections should be submitted to the original languages only. They should be incorporated in a copy of the record and sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned to the Chief of the Verbatim Reporting Service, room C-154A.

06-32589 (E)



The meeting was called to order at 1.40 p.m.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

The situation in Chad and the Sudan

The President (*spoke in Chinese*): I should like to inform the Council that I have received a letter from the representative of Chad, in which he requests to be invited to participate in the consideration of the item on the Council's agenda. In conformity with the usual practice, I propose, with the consent of the Council, to invite that representative to participate in the consideration of the item, without the right to vote, in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Charter and rule 37 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure.

There being no objection, it is so decided.

At the invitation of the President, Mr. Ahmat Ibrahim (Chad) took a seat at the Council table.

The President (*spoke in Chinese*): The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda. The Council is meeting in accordance with the understanding reached in its prior consultations.

I should like to draw the attention of members to document S/2006/256, which contains a letter dated 13 April 2006 from the Secretary-General to the President of the Security Council transmitting a letter of the same date from the Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs and African Integration of Chad.

Following consultations among members of the Security Council, I have been authorized to make the following statement on behalf of the Council.

"The Security Council welcomes the Secretary-General's briefing on 18 April 2006 on Chad/Sudan relations and endorses his deep concerns over the political and security situation and the instability along Chad's borders with the Sudan, as well as over the possible spillover effects of these crises on neighbouring countries and the entire region. The Security Council encourages the Secretary-General to continue his consultations with relevant parties, in particular the African Union, on the matter and requests him to closely follow the situation and continue to keep the Security Council informed.

"The Security Council welcomes the fact-finding mission dispatched by the African Union in Chad and looks forward to its conclusions.

"The Security Council fully endorses the statement by the African Union Peace and Security Council of 13 April 2006 in which it strongly condemned the rebel attacks against N'Djamena and the eastern town of Adre and reiterates that any attempt to seize power by force, pursuant to the 1999 Algiers Declaration of the Organization of African Unity, would be regarded as unacceptable.

"The Security Council calls for political dialogue and a negotiated solution to the continuing crisis within Chad.

"The Security Council also reaffirms the sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity of Chad and of the Sudan, as well as of all States in the region, and calls on all Members to refrain in their international relations from the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any State, or in any other manner inconsistent with the purposes of the United Nations.

"The Security Council calls upon on States in the region to cooperate in ensuring their common stability.

"The Security Council notes with deep concern the deteriorating relations between Chad and the Sudan and urges the Governments of the two countries to abide by their obligations under the 8 February 2006 Tripoli Agreement and to urgently start implementing the confidence-building measures which have been voluntarily agreed upon. Both the Sudan and Chad must refrain from any actions that violate the border.

"The Security Council is concerned about the situation of the refugees from the Darfur region of the Sudan and from the Central African Republic, as well as the situation of the thousands of internally displaced persons in Chad. It therefore notes the decision by the Government of Chad not to expel the Sudanese refugees and urges the Government of Chad to continue supporting the efforts of humanitarian and relief agencies in the country in accordance with international principles governing the protection

of refugees. The Security Council further reaffirms the right of all displaced persons who wish to do so to return to their homes. It reminds all Governments in the region of their obligation to respect international humanitarian law. In this regard, the Security Council calls on donor countries to provide additional resources to respond to the emergency humanitarian situation in both the Sudan and Chad."

This statement will be issued as a document of the Security Council under the symbol S/PRST/2006/19.

The Security Council has thus concluded the present stage of its consideration of the item on its agenda.

The meeting rose at 1.45 p.m.

United Nations S/PV.5426

Security Council

Sixty-first year

Provisional

5426th meeting

Thursday, 27 April 2006, 10 a.m.

New York

President:	Mr. Wang Guangya	(China)
Members:	Argentina	Mr. Mayoral
	Congo	Mr. Ikouebe
	Denmark	Mr. Faaborg-Andersen
	France	Mr. De La Sablière
	Ghana	Nana Effah-Apenteng
	Greece	Mrs. Telalian
	Japan	Mr. Haneda
	Peru	Mr. De Rivero
	Qatar	Mr. Al-Nasser
	Russian Federation	Mr. Dolgov
	Slovakia	Mr. Burian
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Mr. Johnston
	United Republic of Tanzania	Mr. Mahiga
	United States of America	Ms. Wolcott Sanders

Agenda

The situation in Côte d'Ivoire

This record contains the text of speeches delivered in English and of the interpretation of speeches delivered in the other languages. The final text will be printed in the *Official Records of the Security Council*. Corrections should be submitted to the original languages only. They should be incorporated in a copy of the record and sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned to the Chief of the Verbatim Reporting Service, room C-154A.

06-32973 (E)

The meeting was called to order at 10.05 a.m.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

The situation in Côte d'Ivoire

The President (*spoke in Chinese*): I should like to inform the Council that I have received a letter from the representative of Côte d'Ivoire in which he requests that his delegation be invited to participate in the consideration of the item on the Council's agenda. In conformity with the usual practice, I propose, with the consent of the Council, to invite that representative to participate in the consideration of the item without the right to vote, in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Charter and rule 37 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure.

There being no objection, it is so decided.

On behalf of the Council, I extend a warm welcome to His Excellency Mr. Charles Konan Banny, Prime Minister of Côte d'Ivoire. I request the Chief of Protocol to escort the Prime Minister to his seat at the Council table.

Mr. Charles Konan Banny, Prime Minister of Côte d'Ivoire, was escorted to a seat at the Council table.

The President (*spoke in Chinese*): The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda. The Council is meeting in accordance with the understanding reached in its prior consultations.

I now give the floor to Mr. Charles Konan Banny, Prime Minister of Côte d'Ivoire.

Mr. Konan Banny (Côte d'Ivoire) (*spoke in French*): Allow me at the outset to express my thanks for this opportunity to address the Security Council this morning, in my capacity as Prime Minister of the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire, at an important stage of the peace process in Côte d'Ivoire. I would like to congratulate China on the work accomplished during its term as President of the Security Council.

I also wish to convey to the Council the greetings and gratitude of the people of Côte d'Ivoire, of its head of State, His Excellency Mr. Laurent Gbagbo, and of the Transition Government, which I have the great honour to lead, for the interest that the Council has unfailingly showed regarding Côte d'Ivoire since the crisis erupted on 19 September 2002. It is a particular pleasure to express my gratitude to the Council for its constant support to my Government and to myself since we assumed our duties in December 2005. In this respect I welcome the warm reception and the attention the Council kindly gave my Minister for Foreign Affairs during his visit on 29 March 2006.

This morning's meeting gives me the pleasant opportunity to express the sincere thanks and gratitude of the Ivorian people to the Secretary-General, Mr. Kofi Annan, for everything he is doing to help Côte d'Ivoire to regain peace and stability.

The Council is more familiar than anyone else with the situation in Côte d'Ivoire and particularly with the peace and reconciliation process undertaken since the signing of the agreements of Linas-Marcoussis, Accra and Pretoria before the adoption, on 21 October 2005, of Security Council resolution 1633 (2005).

Prior to that date, the process was in difficulty. Moreover, resolution 1633 (2005) had to be adopted, at the end of the term of office of the President of the Republic, in order to continue the peace process that was under way, but there had not been sufficient progress to permit the holding of elections on 31 October. The various Ivorian protagonists had not managed to undertake any significant actions in terms of respecting the deadlines set by the agreements. The lack of confidence was clear in political circles, especially among the main Ivorian political leaders, most of whom were out of the country. Some were even afraid to be in Abidjan. The security situation was at its lowest level, and the Government of National Reconciliation was not functioning at its best.

It is in that context that the Security Council adopted — at the proposal of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and the African Union — resolution 1633 (2005). Since that resolution was adopted, and the hopes it raised, Côte d'Ivoire, under the impetus of the Transition Government, is learning to live in a new era. This new context has allowed the peace and reconciliation process to evolve significantly. Even if events are not proceeding as quickly as we — I myself, the majority of observers and the vast majority of Ivorians — would wish, we can nevertheless say that the general situation now is relatively satisfactory.

Several organizations, African statesmen and statesmen from other countries have given their

support to the Ivorian political leaders and the people of Côte d'Ivoire in order to permit the peace process to make tangible progress. In that respect I wish to express the gratitude of Côte d'Ivoire to ECOWAS and to its Chairman, His Excellency Mr. Tandja Mamadou, to the African Union and its Chairman, His Excellency Mr. Denis Sassou Nguesso, not forgetting the outgoing Chairman, His Excellency Mr. Olusegun Obasanjo, and the African Union Mediator, His Excellency President Thabo Mbeki, and also the other heads of State for the positive role they have been playing.

Of course, I wish to stress once again the leading role played by Secretary-General Kofi Annan and by his team based in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire. Of course I include the French forces participating in Operation Licorne.

Thanks to the efforts of all, and to those of what I call "the tandem", which I have decided to form with the head of State, Laurent Gbagbo, my Government has taken several initiatives towards reconciliation and the restoration of confidence. These include in particular the two meetings in Yamoussoukro, about which members have heard. The first was the governmental seminar on the road map, held from 9 to 11 February 2006. Military dialogue was resumed, and examinations were organized in the central, western and northern occupied regions. The university in Bouaké was opened. There was a meeting on 25 February 2006 among the four main Ivorian political leaders: Laurent Gbagbo, Henri Konan Bédié, Alassane Ouattara and Guillaume Soro.

That latter meeting — held in Côte d'Ivoire for the first time since the crisis began — made it possible for the participants to tackle, in my presence, the main questions of concern to them and whose resolution should give fresh impetus to the peace process. They first gave their views on key issues and took decisions that lead to restoration of confidence among themselves and within political circles. Thanks to that, hope emerged among the Ivorian people, which in turn led to significant progress in political, military, administrative and economic areas. In the political area, restoration of dialogue among the political leaders made it possible to bring down the great wall of distrust that was separating them and to remove obstacles to the implementation of the agreements signed and to open up the way to the implementation of measures set out in resolution 1633 (2005) and the International Working Group road map.

In the military area, and in accordance with the decisions taken at the meeting of the political leaders, the former belligerents, encouraged by the climate of political détente, have themselves resumed the exchanges that had been interrupted for more than a year, with a view to implementing the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration (DDR) programme. This military-staff-level contact was well established when, on 12 April 2006, we lost momentum. However, that was not a definitive breakdown, because everything is moving towards an early resumption of the talks.

At the administrative level, the new spirit that emerged from the Yamoussoukro summit has made it possible to begin the process of redeploying State administration in the national education and higher education sectors in the regions controlled by the Forces nouvelles. Thus, it was possible for the first time in three years to hold school examinations under satisfactory conditions in all the regions controlled by the Forces nouvelles. The university in Bouaké, a stronghold of the Forces nouvelles, reopened its doors on 28 March 2006.

The forced halt to education in those regions greatly increased the desire of students — that is, children — to learn. And it was with intense emotion that, during my first trip to Bouaké, at the beginning of February, I read the messages written on the signs carried by the children — messages addressed to us adults: "We want to go to school"; "We want examinations". That was the first time I had heard that children like examinations. Now that has been accomplished and, together with the United Nations specialized agencies that called for a resumption of classes, I welcome this. My gratitude goes to those agencies.

At the economic level, the calming of the political environment has given new hope to economic leaders, whom I invited on 31 March 2006 to a forum at which all problems related to their activities and the conditions under which they are carried out were frankly discussed. A true convergence of views emerged at the end of our discussions. At the meetings, all the partners in that sector emphasized, inter alia, the security environment, for which the authority of the State has primary responsibility. As Council members know, the weakening of the State's authority following the war is making it extremely difficult to carry out that task.

The progress that I have just cited should, in my view, be made irreversible. We must enhance the climate of confidence that is gradually returning. The peace and reconciliation process is now at a crossroads. For me and for the international community — which Council members represent — that means that the process of emerging from the crisis is moving, slowly but surely, in the right direction. Indeed, recent Council statements attest to that.

While we should all welcome the generally positive developments in the peace process — at which we are pleased — we must recognize that some resistance still exists, which prevents us from making swifter progress in accordance with the timetable established by the International Working Group road map. Unfortunately, this is at a time when the Government is working with resolve to resolve the basic problems resulting from the crisis. Their resolution should enable us to create ideal conditions for the holding of open, fair, democratic and transparent elections in October 2006. In that connection, I should like to welcome the arrival in Côte d'Ivoire on 19 April 2006 of Mr. Gerard Stoudmann, new United Nations High Representative for the elections in Côte d'Ivoire, and to assure him of my Government's full and complete cooperation.

At this stage of the process, when important decisions must be taken, I wish to call for vigilance and a redoubling of efforts on the part of everyone to resolve remaining problems. In that respect, I welcome the contents of the Secretary-General's eighth report on the situation in Côte d'Ivoire (S/2006/222), particularly its paragraph 74, in which the Secretary-General expresses his concern at the delays in the process and at the consequences to which new deadlocks could lead if the deadlines set by resolution 1633 (2005) are not respected.

It is necessary to help consolidate the political progress made by the Ivorian Government and achieve a true pact of cohesion and political stability, which is the cement for any process aimed at emerging from the crisis. I believe that the time has come to transform isolated efforts into collective action by the international community. That is why my Government shares the Secretary-General's desire to see a further strengthening of UNOCI's human, material and financial capabilities to ensure that the entire process of emerging from the crisis is secure until it is completed.

As members know, the various elements of that process — such as the DDR programme, the security of the electoral operations and the people's safety during the elections — require a safe atmosphere of confidence, which can be ensured only by a military presence that is more significant but also acts as a deterrent. Moreover, the importance of the October 2006 elections for Côte d'Ivoire and for the international community argues in favour of the implementation of measures that can make it possible for everything to be done in transparency and justice so as to avoid the slightest inclination to contest the outcome of the elections.

With specific regard to the strengthening of security throughout the Ivorian national territory, I should like to stress in particular that that is the main concern of all Ivorians and thus of the Government of Côte d'Ivoire. Indeed, we must guarantee security not only in Abidjan, but also in the interior, particularly in the western region and in Bouaké. The western region, as members know, borders the Republic of Liberia, whose people have many ethnic and cultural similarities to the people of western Côte d'Ivoire. I believe that ensuring good security in that part of Côte d'Ivoire would also ensure greater security in Liberia and would strengthen the nascent democratic process in that brotherly country.

If it occurred, any uncontrolled spillover that would destabilize western Côte d'Ivoire would inevitably have detrimental consequences in Liberia and even beyond, in Sierra Leone. In this respect, my Government welcomes the return of the Blue Helmets of UNOCI to this region of the country. My Government undertakes to assure them, and all the impartial forces, that they will have freedom of movement and freedom to work.

I know that a draft resolution on increasing the number of UNOCI troops is being prepared within the Council. While my Government welcomes this initiative, it would be desirable that the number of additional Blue Helmets being made available to UNOCI should be as close as possible to that requested by the Secretary-General. UNOCI would thus be able to give dynamic and effective support to the Government in the implementation of the International Working Group road map.

For all of these reasons, I would like to urge the members of the Council to support the Secretary-

General's proposal and to consider it very favourably. However, members should know that I remain convinced that without the firm political will of the main actors in the crisis and of all Ivorians to bring Côte d'Ivoire out of the current conflict, no military presence, and no international pressure, can resolve the crisis that the country is going through. But it is also true that, without the support of the international community, Ivorians will not be able, alone, to resolve all of the major problems of the Ivorian conflict.

Thus, let us all work together to restore peace in Côte d'Ivoire so that nothing and no one can make us turn back. It is in this spirit that I invite all of our international partners, and particularly those in the development sector, to respect their commitments in accordance with paragraph 3 of Chapter VIII of the annex to the Linas-Marcoussis Agreement relating to economic recovery and the need for social cohesion. It stipulates in fact that the Linas-Marcoussis Round Table recommends to international institutions and international development partners that they provide support for the process of rebuilding Côte d'Ivoire.

I am extremely grateful for the welcome and the attention which Council members have kindly given me.

The President (*spoke in Chinese*): I thank the Prime Minister of Côte d'Ivoire for his statement.

In accordance with the understanding reached in the Council's prior consultations, I now invite Council members to a private meeting to continue our discussion of the subject.

The meeting rose at 10.35 a.m.

United Nations S/PV.5427

Security Council

Distr.: General
27 April 2006

Original: English

Official communiqué of the 5427th (closed) meeting of the Security Council

Held in private at Headquarters, New York, on Thursday, 27 April 2006, at 10.40 a.m.

In accordance with rule 55 of the provisional rules of procedure of the Security Council, the following communiqué was issued through the Secretary-General in place of a verbatim record:

"At its 5427th meeting, held in private on 27 April 2006, the Security Council considered the item entitled 'The situation in Côte d'Ivoire'.

"Pursuant to the decision taken at the five thousand four hundred and twenty-sixth meeting, the President, with the consent of the Council, extended an invitation under rule 37 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure to His Excellency Mr. Charles Konan Banny, Prime Minister of Côte d'Ivoire.

"Members of the Council and His Excellency Mr. Banny had an exchange of views."

06-33030 (E) 270406

United Nations S PV.5428

Security Council

Sixty-first year

Provisional

5428th meeting

Thursday, 27 April 2006, 12.25 p.m.

New York

President:	Mr. Wang Guangya	(China)
Members:	Argentina	Mr. García Moritán
	Congo	Mr. Gayama
	Denmark	Mr. Faaborg-Andersen
	France	Mr. De La Sablière
	Ghana	Nana Effah-Apenteng
	Greece	Mrs. Telalian
	Japan	Mr. Kawakami
	Peru	Mr. Gallardo
	Qatar	Mr. Al-Nasser
	Russian Federation	Mr. Dolgov
	Slovakia	Mr. Burian
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Mr. Johnston
	United Republic of Tanzania	Mr. Mahiga
	United States of America	Ms. Wolcott Sanders

Agenda

The situation in Côte d'Ivoire

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06-32980 (E)

The meeting was called to order at 12.25 p.m.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

The situation in Côte d'Ivoire

The President (*spoke in Chinese*): Pursuant to the decision taken at the 5426th meeting, I recognize the presence of His Excellency Mr. Konan Banny, Prime Minister of Côte d'Ivoire.

The Security Council will now continue its consideration of the item on its agenda. The Council is meeting in accordance with the understanding reached in its prior consultations.

Following consultations among the members of the Security Council, I have been authorized to make the following statement on behalf of the Council:

"The Security Council commends Prime Minister Konan Banny for his initiatives, taken in cooperation with President Laurent Gbagbo, which have injected a new momentum into the peace process as defined by resolution 1633 (2005) and the road map established by the International Working Group (IWG), and which must lead to the organization of free, open, fair and transparent elections by 31 October 2006. It reiterates to him its full support.

"The Security Council expresses its full support for the IWG and endorses its sixth final communiqué, dated 20 April 2006.

"The Security Council welcomes the appointment of Mr. Gérard Stoudmann as High Representative for the elections. It encourages him to take all necessary measures, in accordance with his mandate, to expedite the preparation of the electoral process. It calls upon all Ivorian parties to fully cooperate with him.

"The Security Council, while taking note of the progress achieved, expresses its grave concern at the serious delay in the implementation of the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration (DDR) programme and of the identification operations. It recalls the commitments made by the main Ivorian political leaders in this regard at their meeting in Abidjan on 8 April 2006 (Yamoussoukro II), under the auspices of the Chair of the African Union. It urges them to fulfil these commitments without delay.

"The Security Council shares the concern expressed by the Secretary-General in paragraph 74 of his report dated 11 April 2006 (S/2006/222), over the consequences of any additional delays in the implementation of the key deadlines of the road map.

"The Security Council invites therefore the Prime Minister and the Government of National Reconciliation he leads to take immediately all the measures necessary to the simultaneous implementation of the DDR and identification operations. It also invites the IWG, in accordance with paragraph 10 of resolution 1633 (2005), to report to it any hindrance or difficulty which the Prime Minister may face in implementing his tasks.

"The Security Council will continue to evaluate and monitor closely the implementation of the road map, in particular the DDR and identification operations. It continues to underline that targeted measures are to be imposed against persons to be designated by the Committee established by paragraph 14 of resolution 1572 (2004) who among other things block the implementation of the peace process, including by attacking or obstructing the action of UNOCI, of the French forces, of the High Representative for the elections or of the International Working Group, or who incite publicly hatred and violence, as provided in resolutions 1572 (2004) and 1643 (2005)."

This statement will be issued as a document of the Security Council under the symbol S/PRST/2006/20.

The Security Council has thus concluded the present stage of its consideration of the item on the agenda.

The meeting rose at 12.30 p.m.

United Nations S PV.5429

Security Council

Sixty-first year

Provisional

5429th meeting

Thursday, 27 April 2006, 4.40 p.m.

New York

President:	Mr. Wang Guangya	(China)
Members:	Argentina	Mrs. Martinic
	Congo	Mr. Ikouebe
	Denmark	Mr. Faaborg-Andersen
	France	Mr. De Rivière
	Ghana	Mr. Christian
	Greece	Mrs. Telalian
	Japan	Mr. Kitaoka
	Peru	Mr. Morote
	Qatar	Mr. Al-Sulaiti
	Russian Federation	Mr. Shcherbak
	Slovakia	Mr. Burian
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Mr. Johnston
	United Republic of Tanzania	Mr. Manongi
	United States of America	Ms. Wolcott Sanders

Agenda

Non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction

Letter dated 25 April 2006 from the Chairman of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004) addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/2006/257)

This record contains the text of speeches delivered in English and of the interpretation of speeches delivered in the other languages. The final text will be printed in the *Official Records of the Security Council*. Corrections should be submitted to the original languages only. They should be incorporated in a copy of the record and sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned to the Chief of the Verbatim Reporting Service, room C-154A.

06-32988 (E)

The meeting was called to order at 4.40 p.m.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

Non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction

Letter dated 25 April 2006 from the Chairman of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004) addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/2006/257)

The President (*spoke in Chinese*): The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda.

Members of the Council have before them document S/2006/263, which contains the text of a draft resolution prepared in the course of the Council's prior consultations.

Members of the Council also have before them document S/2006/257, which contains a letter dated 25 April 2006 from the Chairman of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004) transmitting the report on the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004).

It is my understanding that the Council is ready to proceed to the vote on the draft resolution. Unless I hear any objection, I shall put the draft resolution to the vote now.

There being no objection, it is so decided.

A vote was taken by show of hands.

In favour:

Argentina, China, Congo, Denmark, France, Ghana, Greece, Japan, Peru, Qatar, Russian Federation, Slovakia, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America

The President (*spoke in Chinese*): There were 15 votes in favour. The draft resolution has been adopted unanimously as resolution 1673 (2006).

The Security Council has thus concluded the present stage of its consideration of the item on its agenda.

The Security Council will remain seized of the matter.

The meeting rose at 4.45 p.m.

United Nations S/PV.5430

Security Council

Sixty-first year

Provisional

5430th meeting

Friday, 28 April 2006, 10 a.m.

New York

President:	Mr. Wang Guangya	(China)
Members:	Argentina	Mr. García Moritán
	Congo	Mr. Gayama
	Denmark	Mr. Faaborg-Andersen
	France	Mr. De Rivière
	Ghana	Nana Effah-Apenteng
	Greece	Mr. Vassilakis
	Japan	Mr. Kitaoka
	Peru	Ms. Tincopa
	Qatar	Mr. Al-Bader
	Russian Federation	Mr. Shcherbak
	Slovakia	Mr. Burian
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Mr. Johnston
	United Republic of Tanzania	Mr. Manongi
	United States of America	Mr. Bolton

Agenda

Protection of civilians in armed conflict

Report of the Secretary-General on the protection of civilians in armed conflict (S/2005/740)

This record contains the text of speeches delivered in English and of the interpretation of speeches delivered in the other languages. The final text will be printed in the *Official Records of the Security Council*. Corrections should be submitted to the original languages only. They should be incorporated in a copy of the record and sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned to the Chief of the Verbatim Reporting Service, room C-154A.

06-33150 (E)

The meeting was called to order at 10.10 a.m.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

Protection of civilians in armed conflict

Report of the Secretary-General on the protection of civilians in armed conflict (S/2005/740)

The President (*spoke in Chinese*): The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda. The Security Council is meeting in accordance with the understanding reached in its prior consultations.

Members of the Council have before them document S/2005/740, which contains the report of the Secretary-General on the protection of civilians in armed conflict. Members of the Council also have before them document S/2006/267, which contains the text of a draft resolution prepared in the course of the Council's prior consultations.

It is my understanding that the Council is ready to proceed to the vote on the draft resolution before it. Unless I hear any objection, I shall put the draft resolution to the vote now.

There being no objection, it is so decided.

A vote was taken by show of hands.

In favour:

Argentina, China, Congo, Denmark, France, Ghana, Greece, Japan, Peru, Qatar, Russian Federation, Slovakia, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America

The President (*spoke in Chinese*): There were 15 votes in favour. The draft resolution has been adopted unanimously as resolution 1674 (2006).

The Security Council has thus concluded the present stage of its consideration of the item on its agenda.

The meeting rose at 10.15 a.m.

United Nations S/PV.5431

Security Council

Sixty-first year

Provisional

5431 st meeting

Friday, 28 April 2006, 10.15 a.m.

New York

President:	Mr. Wang Guangya	(China)
Members:	Argentina	Mr. García Moritán
	Congo	Mr. Gayama
	Denmark	Mr. Faaborg-Andersen
	France	Mr. De Rivière
	Ghana	Nana Effah-Apenteng
	Greece	Mr. Vassilakis
	Japan	Mr. Kitaoka
	Peru	Mr. Morote
	Qatar	Mr. Al-Nasser
	Russian Federation	Mr. Dolgov
	Slovakia	Mr. Burian
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Mr. Johnston
	United Republic of Tanzania	Mr. Manongi
	United States of America	Mr. Bolton

Agenda

The situation concerning Western Sahara

Report of the Secretary-General on the situation concerning Western Sahara (S/2006/249)

This record contains the text of speeches delivered in English and of the interpretation of speeches delivered in the other languages. The final text will be printed in the *Official Records of the Security Council*. Corrections should be submitted to the original languages only. They should be incorporated in a copy of the record and sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned to the Chief of the Verbatim Reporting Service, room C-154A.

06-33156 (E)

The meeting was called to order at 10.15 a.m.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

The situation concerning Western Sahara

Report of the Secretary-General on the situation concerning Western Sahara (S/2006/249)

The President (*spoke in Chinese*): The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda. The Security Council is meeting in accordance with the understanding reached in its prior consultations.

Members of the Council have before them document S/2006/249, containing the report of the Secretary-General on the situation concerning Western Sahara. Members of the Council also have before them document S/2006/268, which contains the text of a draft resolution submitted by France, Spain, the Russian Federation, the United Kingdom and the United States.

I wish to draw the attention of members to documents S/2006/258 and S/2006/266, containing the texts of letters dated 24 and 26 April 2006, respectively, from the Permanent Representatives of Algeria and Namibia addressed to the President of the Security Council.

It is my understanding that the Council is ready to proceed to the vote on the draft resolution before it. Unless I hear any objection, I shall put the draft resolution to the vote now.

There being no objection, it is so decided.

A vote was taken by show of hands.

In favour:

Argentina, China, Congo, Denmark, France, Ghana, Greece, Japan, Peru, Qatar, Russian Federation, Slovakia, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America

The President (*spoke in Chinese*): There were 15 votes in favour. The draft resolution has been adopted unanimously as resolution 1675 (2006).

I shall now give the floor to those members of the Council who wish to make statements following the voting.

Mr. Bolton (United States of America): The United States voted in favour of the resolution in the hope that parties will use the next six months to make real progress towards reaching a mutually acceptable solution that brings peace, stability and economic prosperity to the region in a manner consistent with the principle of self-determination for the people of Western Sahara.

We recognize the important role of the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara in those efforts, but we must continually monitor the ability of the Mission to carry out its mandated tasks, taking into account limited peacekeeping resources.

The United States looks forward to the next report of the Secretary-General prior to the end of the current mandate period, and hopes that the parties will have begun to take meaningful steps towards a final resolution of the dispute.

The settlement of the Western Sahara conflict would enhance the stability and economic prosperity of the Maghreb. Unresolved, the conflict and humanitarian crisis continue to be the primary impediments to regional integration and development. The United States cannot impose a solution, but together we can continue to urge the parties to work together and with the United Nations in a spirit of flexibility and compromise. Morocco has expressed its intention to put forward an autonomy plan for the territory, and we encourage it to submit a plan that is at once strong and credible in the hope that it might form the basis of a new United Nations-led negotiating process.

Our hope over the next six months is simple, but, we hope, not too ambitious. It is that we will see significant progress towards launching a diplomatic effort that will allow the parties to move beyond the status quo in the direction of a final resolution of a dispute that has already gone on too long.

Mr. Johnston (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland): The United Kingdom voted in favour of the resolution just adopted by the Council to renew the mandate of the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara (MINURSO) for a further six months.

Since the resolution is a technical rollover of the mandate and does not respond to any other recommendations made in the Secretary-General's report this month, we would like to set out some aspects of the situation which we consider to be particularly important.

We would like to commend MINURSO for its ongoing stabilization and ceasefire monitoring role, and for its efforts at restructuring. We would also like to thank Mr. Van Walsum, the Secretary-General's Personal Envoy, for his efforts to find a way forward in the dispute.

The United Kingdom believes that the approach outlined in the Secretary-General's report — that of direct negotiations without preconditions — offers a way to move beyond the current impasse. The United Kingdom notes the references in the report to the human rights situation and remains concerned by that situation. The United Kingdom fully supports the intention of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights to send a delegation to the region.

The United Kingdom hopes that there will be progress beyond the current impasse before the next mandate renewal in October, and that there will therefore not need to be another simply technical rollover. We take this opportunity to stress again that any solution has to be mutually acceptable, in line with United Nations requirements as set out in previous Security Council resolutions.

Mr. Faaborg-Andersen (Denmark): Denmark has just voted in favour of resolution 1675 (2006) extending the mandate of the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara (MINURSO) for an additional six months. Having done so, we would like to add our appreciation for the efforts of the Secretary-General, his Personal Envoy, Ambassador van Walsum, and the MINURSO operation, for their work towards finding a resolution to the protracted conflict in Western Sahara.

Maintaining the status quo is not a viable option; carries with it the high risk of a renewed outbreak of hostilities, and it thus needs to be emphasized that all parties concerned must engage in renewed dialogue and negotiations in order to move beyond the current impasse. Denmark would welcome any sincere and well-conceived initiative that could move the issue towards a mutually acceptable solution. We appreciate the very difficult task of the Personal Envoy and would like to voice our full support for his continued efforts towards bringing about a peaceful resolution to the conflict.

We thank the Secretary-General for his recent report on the situation in Western Sahara (S/2006/249). In that context, we would like to reiterate Denmark's firm and long-standing position on the need for full respect for human rights. We welcome the plans of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to send a mission to the region, and we look forward to receiving its report.

Mr. Kitaoka (Japan): Japan voted in favour of, and welcomes the adoption of, the resolution on Western Sahara, which extends the mandate of the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara for another six months. Given the importance of the role that the Secretary-General and his Personal Envoy are playing in the search for a peaceful solution to this issue, Japan welcomes their efforts and will continue to support them.

Mr. García Moritán (Argentina) (*spoke in Spanish*): Argentina voted in favour of the resolution extending the mandate of the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara (MINURSO) for a period of six months, because we understand that the presence of the Mission in Western Sahara continues to be necessary.

My delegation believes that the Security Council must send a clear message to the parties that they must endeavour to find a peaceful resolution to this long-standing dispute. In that connection, we hope that the next six months will be used positively to address the stagnant situation we have seen in recent years. We are convinced that, as in other disputes and conflicts on the agenda of the United Nations, negotiations and dialogue constitute the best way to find a definitive solution in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations and the relevant resolutions adopted by the Security Council and other bodies of the Organization.

In that context, I would like to reiterate my country's support for the work of Mr. Peter van Walsum, Personal Envoy of the Secretary-General. We thank him for his efforts in recent months and ask him to continue to work to overcome the current impasse.

Lastly, I would like to stress that the report of the Secretary-General (S/2006/249) expresses concern at the worsening of the human rights situation in the

territory. We hope that the mission by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights will be able to undertake its visit in mid-May in order to investigate the situation and prepare a report.

Given the importance that Argentina attaches to the protection of human rights, we will continue to follow closely the developments in this area. My delegation hopes that these matters will be taken into consideration by the Council when it takes up the next renewal of MINURSO's mandate, in October 2006.

Mr. De Rivière (France) (*spoke in French*): The Security Council has just renewed the mandate of the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara (MINURSO) for an additional six months. That was a good decision, for the United Nations Mission continues to play a useful and stabilizing role.

France hopes that the coming months will be used to the best advantage by the parties and the States of the region to resume the path of dialogue and to find a mutually acceptable political solution. In that regard, the announcement by the Kingdom of Morocco regarding future proposals is an important and encouraging development.

Like the Secretary-General and his Personal Envoy, to whom we reiterate our support, we believe that direct negotiations offer the only credible prospect for finding a way out of the impasse.

Lastly, we welcome the upcoming visit by a mission of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights. We call on all the parties concerned to welcome it properly.

Mr. Burian (Slovakia): Slovakia too voted in favour of the technical resolution extending the mandate of the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara for six more months. We hope that this period will be used to resume dialogue between the parties to find a final solution to the issue of Western Sahara based on direct negotiations. We also agree that adequate attention should be paid to the human rights situation in the area.

Mr. Manongi (United Republic of Tanzania): The United Republic of Tanzania voted in favour of the resolution extending the mandate of the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara. However, it is our view that the right of self-determination of the people of Western Sahara cannot be subject to any preconditions. As it is, it has gone unfulfilled for far too long. It is our hope that the next six months will witness real progress towards the realization of that right.

The President (*spoke in Chinese*): The Security Council has thus concluded the present stage of its consideration of the item on its agenda.

The meeting rose at 10.30 a.m.